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village school ,most of the school house building resting on piles driven into the marsh.

To return to the question about the name Powder Point we see that it couldn't have been derived from the storage of powder for the wars of 1776 or 1812 since it was named in the old records 140 and 176 years repectively before these wars. Prior to 1636 the Point was a wilderness and an unlikely place for the storage of powder as such a cache would be more accessible for the Indians than the few white people in the neighborhood. A more suitable place for the storage of powder would have been at the Nook where Miles Standish could have guarded it.

It has been claimed that the name was given because the shape of the Point was similar to an old fashioned powder horn.From h the standpoint of time the idea is probable enough for the powder horn antedates 1636.;but on the other hand a glance at the map of the Town shows that the Point is not shaped like a powder horn. Moreover, if the name had been derived from such a fancied resemblance it would naturally have been named Powder Horn Point.

Having failed to find in the old records any explanation of the name , almost by chance I ran across a suggested origin which seems to me to have some plausibility. This appears in an article by Ruth A.Bradford entitled "Marshfield and Its Historic Houses," published in the New England Magaazine, June 1901. I am making a liberal quotation from her article because she describes so beautifully and sympathetically the marshes which have been always a joy to those who have lived beside them.

" Doubtless the beauty of the landscape pleased Winslow's fancy as much as the fertility of the medadows and fields influenced

and his selection of a site for his house in Marshfield.) Hundreds of acres of salt meadow lay ~~around this~~ before and around this spot. No drought affected its strong rich grasses which still wave as of old in the summer breezes. The daily ebb and flow of the tide, lending beauty and variety to the scene remain the same today as in the older time. Numberless little eminences, well wooded, relieve the prairie-like level; these during a high course of tides appear like veritable islands. To the south and across this meadow nearly two miles away is seen Powder Point, a high bluff belonging to the Township of Duxbury. In Winslow's day there might have been two or three Pilgrim houses on it; but it was noticeable chiefly for the distant report of guns fired by gunners shooting the sea fowl which frequented the spot- hence the name Powder Point."

And yet the fact of hearing guns across the marshes does not seem to suggest definitely enough the word "Powder". No doubt migrating ducks and geese landed on the marshes as they do today; and the earliest settlers may have paddled out to the marsh islands for this quarry. Their guns, heavy, crude with match or flintlocks were usually fired from a rest. If trained in ambush on a floating group of waterfowl they might get a bag worth while. They had no chance with small shore birds or game on the wing. Powder was precious and the guns inaccurate at the best.

So after following up all the clues and suggestions we have been able to find, a satisfactory reason for calling this charming little promontory Powder Point still eludes us. The Sphinx of local history has not yet answered our question.